

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR:EE:CWSCHMIDT

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S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074230

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN - ALSO PASS CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: HU, PFOR

SUBJECT: VANIK'S INTEREST IN CROWN AND MFN FOR HUNGARY

REF: STATE 069136

1. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION ON MARCH 27 OF NY TIMES ARTICLE (REFTEL) REPORTING THAT ADMINISTRATION, UNDER "PRESSURE" OF GROUP IN CONGRESS LED BY VANIK, HAD BEGUN STUDY OF WAYS TO EXTEND HUNGARY MFN AND RETURN CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN, JENKINS (H) SPOKE WITH VANIK. NOTING THAT YOU WOULD SHORTLY BE VISITING BUDAPEST, JENKINS REQUESTED THAT VANIK HOLD OFF ON INTRODUCING ANY BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS AT LEAST UNTIL YOU HAD RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. VANIK AGREED TO DO SO AND SAID
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HE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH YOU ON YOUR RETURN. HE ALSO INDICATED GOOD DEAL OF INTEREST IN HAVING CLOSED-DOOR, INFORMAL SESSION WITH YOUR AND HIS WAYS AND MEANS TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE AFTER YOUR RETURN TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE AND SOVIET UNION. (DUE TO HOUSE RECESS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 7-17 SUCH A SESSION COULD NOT TAKE PLACE

UNTIL SECOND HALF OF MONTH AT EARLIEST, ASSUMING YOU AGREE TO DO IT. NO RPT NO RESPONSE NEEDED FROM YOU ON THIS UNTIL AFTER YOUR RETURN.)

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT VANIK TOOK SOME FLACK AT HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN FUNCTION IN CLEVELAND MARCH 27 AS RESULT OF HIS RECENT REMARKS ON RETURNING THE CROWN, WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED IN DETAIL IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER. IN PART PROMPTED BY VANIK'S REMARK TO THE GATHERING THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH BRZEZINSKI, WHITE HOUSE RECEIVED NUMBER OF PHONE CALLS AND SOME SIXTY LETTERS ALL URGING THAT CROWN NOT BE RETURNED.

3. VANIK MET WITH BRZEZINSKI ON MARCH 28 AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FINDING WAY TO EXTEND MFN TO HUNGARY AND TO RETURN CROWN. BRZEZINSKI TOOK ESSENTIALLY SAME LINE WITH HIM THAT JENKINS HAD, SUGGESTING THAT VANIK TAKE NO ACTION UNTIL YOUR RETURN OTHER THAN CONFIRMING THAT HE HAD MADE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND THAT THEY ARE BEING CONSIDERED. VANIK AGREED.

4. CONGRESSWOMAN OAKER, A FRESHMAN DEMOCRAT FROM CLEVELAND, WROTE DEPARTMENT THIS WEEK REQUESTING EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON CROWN. OAKAR STAFFER TOLD EUR/EE THAT CONGRESSWOMAN HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY VANIK'S REMARKS CONCERNING RETURN OF CROWN AND IMPLIED THAT VANIK MAY BE OUT OF TOUCH WITH REAL SENTIMENTS OF HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. STAFFER SAID GREAT BULK OF CLEVELAND'S HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY WAS WITHIN CONFIDENTIAL

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OAKAR'S DISTRICT, WHEREAS THIS GROUP'S POPULATION IN VANIK'S DISTRICT HAD DECLINED SUBSTANTIALY.
(WE WILL CABLE YOU TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO OAKAR LETTER AS SOON AS NSC CLEARANCE OBTAINED.)

5. OAKAR ALSO CONTACTED NSC, HICH RESPONDED THAT US POLICY ON THE CROWN REMAINS UNCHANGED.
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